

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 03211 201223Z

63

ACTION SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W

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R 201033Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3909

USDEL JEC PARIS

S E C R E T SAIGON 3211

EXDIS

FOLLOWING MSG SENT ACTION SAIGON 19 MAR 75 BEING REPEATED TO
YOU

QUOTE

S E C R E T NHA TRANG 189

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS VS

SUBJECT: ANTI-AMERICANISM IN REGION 2

1. THE GVN'S RECENT MILITARY SETBACKS IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS
HAVE GENERATED ANTI-AMERICANISM IN REGION 2. FOR EXAMPLE, PROV
REP KHANH HOA REPORTS THAT THE NATIONAL POLICE HAVE FOUND STRONG
ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT AMONG THE REFUGEES NOW ARRIVING IN NHA
TRANG. APPARENTLY MANY OF THESE REFUGEES FEEL THE US HAS NOT
ADEQUATELY SUPPORTED VIETNAM, AND CONSEQUENTLY THEY BLAME THE US
FOR THE LOSS OF THEIR HOMES. PROV REP ADDS THAT SUCH FEELINGS
ARE NOT CONFINED TO THE REFUGEES, BUT ARE EVIDENT AMONG MANY
RESIDENTS OF NHA TRANG. SIMILARLY, FATHER DE DIEGO, RECTOR OF
THE PONTIFICAL COLLEGE IN DALAT, HAS STATED THAT HIS SEMINARIANS
BELIEVE THE US IS NOT EFFECTIVELY SUPPORTING VIETNAM. INDEED,
THE SEMINARIANS APPARENTLY FEEL THAT WHAT THEY CONSTRUE TO BE THE
US CONGRESS' INDIFFERENCE TO THE FATE OF VIETNAM, REFLECTS A
CYNICAL WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE US TO SEE THE WAR END IN A
COMMUNIST VICTORY.

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2. THE INCIPIENT ANTI-AMERICANISM IS MIXED WITH PESSIMISM ABOUT THE GVN'S ABILITY TO SURVIVE IN THE FACE OF THE CURRENT COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE. THERE SEEMS TO BE A GROWING SENTIMENT THAT NO MATTER HOW VALIANTLY THE VIETNAMESE ARMED FORCES FIGHT, THE ABSENCE OF ADEQUATE AMERICAN SUPPORT DOOMS THEM TO DEFEAT. FURTHERMORE, SOME VIETNAMESE APPARENTLY BELIEVE THAT THE US IS SECRETLY BARGAINING WITH THE COMMUNISTS TO PARTITION SOUTH VIETNAM. IN ANY CASE, THIS PESSIMISM ABOUT THE VIABILITY OF THE GVN HAS ALREADY LED TO A RUN ON THE BANKS IN NHA TRANG AND TO A RUSH TO PURCHASE NHA TRANG/SAIGON TICKETS FROM AIR VIETNAM.

3. BRIEF CONTACT MORNING OF MARCH 19 WITH SOME ARVN SOLDIERS AT CONG SON IN WESTERN PHU YEN (THE HEAD OF THE EVACUATION COLUMN COMING DOWN ROUTE 7B FROM PLEIKU) REVEALED AN ATTITUDE OF HOSTILITY TOWARD AMERICANS - AN "AMERICANS GO HOME" SENTIMENT.

4. WE ARE FOLLOWING THIS CLOSELY AND WILL REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. MEANWHILE, CHIEF OF NHA TRANG POLICE HAS ASKED THAT WE TRY TO HAVE US COMMUNITY KEEP LOW PROFILE, AND WE HAVE ADVISED OUR PEOPLE TO DO SO.

SPEAR
UNQUOTE
LEHMANN

SECRET

NNN

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